

EL-548  
CD

Christa

ROBERT M. TOMLINSON  
6TH DISTRICT

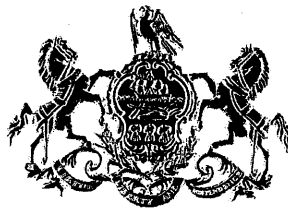
SENATE BOX 203006  
ROOM 362, MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3006  
(717) 787-5072  
FAX: (717) 772-2991

2212 BRISTOL PIKE  
BENSALEM, PA 19020  
(215) 638-1777  
FAX: (215) 638-7619

841 2ND STREET PIKE  
RICHBORO, PA 18954  
(215) 942-5157  
FAX: (215) 942-5184  
rtomlinson@pasen.gov  
tomlinson.pasenategop.com

January 28, 2004

Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

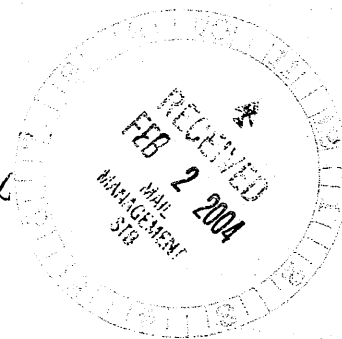


## Senate of Pennsylvania

### COMMITTEES

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS, VICE CHAIRMAN  
EDUCATION  
TRANSPORTATION  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
PHEAA BOARD  
PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTERS AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS  
ADVISORY BOARD, DELAWARE VALLEY VETERANS HOME

AB-859 Sub-KolX



Dear Madam/Sir:

Please allow me to add my voice to those in opposition to the notice of intent to abandon rail service on a 3.7 mile section of rail right of way, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Said right of way is owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company.

While this section of rail is not in my State Senate district, I and my colleagues have been working together to initiate plans to reinstate commuter rail service on an existing rail right of way from Norristown, PA to Quakertown, PA. The section in question is part of this line, about 8 miles north of Quakertown. This line represents the only existing rail link between Philadelphia and the Allentown/Bethlehem area. A recent study recommends reinstatement of commuter rail to connect to Philadelphia, with an eye toward re-establishing the link through the Lehigh Valley and on to New York City.

The proposed abandonment would forever eliminate the possibility of restoring commuter rail service to this area. I am asking you to please review the impacts of this abandonment and respectfully request that the line remain intact.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Tomlinson  
State Senator, 6<sup>th</sup> District

RMT:kcw

cc: Hon. Edward G. Rendell, Governor  
Senator Arlen Specter  
Senator Rick Santorum  
Bucks County Legislative Delegation  
Bucks County Commissioners  
William D. Rickett, Ex. Dir., Bucks County TMA  
Robert White, Ex. Dir. Bucks County Redevelopment Authority